

Carolyn McCarthy

Breast Cancer Accomplishments - 108th Congress

This year, approximately 180,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and over 40,000 will die. Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy is a strong advocate for breast cancer prevention and treatment since the number of women diagnosed with breast cancer on Long Island is among the highest in the country. She is involved in a variety of legislative efforts to address the research, prevention and treatment of this disease.

LOWERING THE COST OF BREAST CANCER TREATMENT

Women on Long Island with breast cancer pay an average of 116% more for the five breast cancer drugs than drug companies' most favored customers, and 80% of women diagnosed with breast cancer are over the age of 55. Congresswoman McCarthy is working to ease the financial burden placed upon women diagnosed with this disease.

HR 896 the Breast Cancer Prescription Drug Fairness Act is Congresswoman McCarthy's bill to reduce prescription drug prices for women diagnosed with breast cancer, along with seniors on Medicare. Allows Medicare recipients and women diagnosed with breast cancer to buy drugs at the discounted rate that drug companies charge the federal government.

- √ **H.R.1288, Access to Cancer Therapies Act of 2003**, would provide for coverage under the Medicare Program of all oral anticancer drugs.
- √ **HR 1886, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act**, requires health plans to provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies and lymph node dissections performed during breast cancer treatment.
- √ **H.R.1448, Women's Cancer Recovery Act of 2003**, would require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.
- √ **H.R.918, Patient Navigator, Outreach, and Chronic Disease Prevention Act of 2003**, would authorize the Health Resources and Services Administration, the National Cancer Institute, and the Indian Health Service to make grants for model programs to provide to

individuals of health disparity populations prevention, early detection, treatment, and appropriate follow-up care services for cancer and chronic diseases, and to make grants regarding patient navigators to assist individuals of health disparity populations in receiving such services.

- √ **H.R.1657, Annie Fox Act**, would provide funding for programs at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences regarding breast cancer in younger women, and for other purposes.

PREVENTING BREAST CANCER THROUGH EARLY DETECTION

As a nurse, Congresswoman McCarthy knows that a necessary component of fighting any disease is improved screening and preventative measures. She knows that the best preventative measures for breast cancer are regular mammographies. She supports legislation that promotes the importance of mammography services, and to ease the financial burden of preventative care.

- √ **HR 817, the Assure Access to Mammography Act**, enhances reimbursement for, and expands capacity to mammography services under the Medicare program.
- √ **HR 1241, the Better Screening Test for Women Act**, authorizes additional appropriations to the National Institutes of Health for research on the early detection of and the reduction of mortality rates attributed to breast cancer.

RESEARCHING CAUSES AND CURES FOR BREAST CANCER

The number of Long Island women diagnosed with breast cancer is one of the highest in the nation. Congresswoman McCarthy is committed to finding the cause for high incidence of breast cancer on Long Island, and she supports increased funding for research into this and other issues related to breast cancer.

- √ **HR 1746, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act**, authorizes the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers to study the relationship between environmental factors and the prevalence of breast cancer.
- √ **HR 1692, the Taxpayers' Cancer Research Funding Act**, adds to the Internal Revenue Code a check off box for a Breast and Prostate Cancer Research Fund.

